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SHARING CHRISTMAS

Thanks to amazing support from the community, Santas Anonymous was able to assist 45 familiesPage 9

SPORTS

Elk Point Minor Hockey gets an early Christmas gift from Hockey Alberta.....Page 10



Elk Point Review

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Vol. 37 No. 51

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

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BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT - Elk Point Community Choir director Udo Mueller invited a number of former choir members who were in the audience at Friday's Christmas Concert to join the present choir on stage for the final number, "Amazing Grace." Story on Page 3.

Town council updated on Municipal Library

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Municipal Library manager Daphne Schnurer and library board chair Laverne Wilson visited town council's Dec 11 meeting to provide an update on library activities and plans for the coming year.

Schnurer, who has held the managerial position for 17 years, told council that the library has 780 town members and 1,410 County of St. Paul members, up from 737 and 1,353 the previous year, although circulation has taken a downturn, going from 15,603 items in 2016 to 13,656 to Nov. 30 of this year. Noting that both circulation and membership varies with population and economic conditions, she also feels that the use of Netflix and Hoopla, a digital media program available through the library, may have had an impact on the figures.

Volunteer hours and program participants continue to climb, with the number of program participants climbing from 3,355 in 2015 to 4,748 in 2016 and 4,873 in 2017. The Friends of the Library, board members and other volunteers added another 60 hours on

to last year's 2,530 as they worked at bingos, served pancakes and library tea goodies and assisted with programs during the year.

The Friends of the Library, Schnurer noted, have been in existence for more than 30 years, and have supplied the library with funding for furnishings, shelving, computers and books throughout that time, as well as purchasing a storage shed, paying for roof repairs and new shingles in recent years, and with the assistance of a matching grant, replaced the library's furnace, air conditioning and hot water heater this year, while still having enough left in the bank to give the go-ahead to purchase two new computers and two laptops this month. In 2018, they hope to donate funds for more new shelving units.

Wilson said it was "very rare" to see a Friends group work to improve a town-owned facility. "We have some really good people here."

The Friends are only one of the library's partner organizations, with others including both the Town of Elk Point and the County of St. Paul, the library board, Elk Point and District Further Education, the County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS, Portage College's Family Literacy program, the Elk Point health unit and

the Early Childhood Development Committee, which recently moved their Come and Go Play sessions to the library's program room.

The ECDC, along with the Royal Purple, Historical Society, Friends of the Forts and other non-profit groups use the facility at no cost, Schnurer said, and to the library, "the benefits have been endless."

In the coming year, the library hopes to expand their Indigenous services, with the removal of the non-resident fee being "a positive step toward equal access to service" for those patrons. The library board and staff will also be working on a new five-year plan of service in 2018.

Wilson reminded council that, "for economic development to thrive, you have to get people to come to your town. The library is a year-round facility that serves all ages from diapers to extended care."

The 2017 municipal election brought a new county councillor, Kevin Wirsta, to the board and Wilson expressed hope that he will follow in the steps of his predecessor, Dwight Dach, at providing generous funding to help the library sustain its current level of service.

(Continued on Page 2)

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All was calm,
all was bright...



...AND THEN SANTA ARRIVED, with bells a-jingle, at the Elk Point Early Childhood Development Committee's Come and Go Play Christmas party in Elk Point Municipal Library's program room. Everyone had an opportunity to visit with the jolly old elf, while program coordinator Miss Kali was kept busy handing out gift bags from Santa's bulging sack and snapping photos of the recipients.



Council

(Continued from Front Page)

Referring to a copy of the library's 2017 budget, Wilson asked Town CAO Ken Gwozdz for a review of the town's contributions to the library. "We're not complaining, we're just letting you know where we stand," Schnurer added that while the Town staff does the library's payroll, "the money does come from us."

Gwozdz assured them that the figures would be looked at during council's budget meetings later in the week, and Coun. Debra McQuinn, who now represents the town on the library board, remarked that it was "nice to see the increase" in user figures.

The library was back on the agenda later in the meeting, when the reports from Schnurer and Wilson were received as information. Council also approved with regret a letter of resignation from library board member Denise Bjorkman and approved the appointment of Verona Lea Flanders to the library board.

Unfinished business

Two items from the previous meeting were back on council's agenda. With no response received to a letter

inviting the ROCK Foundation chair to the meeting, council agreed to wait until they receive some clarification on why the group feels it needs a designated council representative.

Also coming out of the previous meeting was an impressive review of honorariums paid to the mayors and councils of other communities of similar size and equalized assessment. It was agreed that the honorarium rates could be developed into a policy to be brought back to a later meeting.

Tree of Hope

With some members already planning to make individual contributions to the Tree of Hope Campaign, council also agreed to donate \$50 to assist Elk Point Palliative Care in their endeavors.

Water Commission

The Elk Point / St. Paul Regional Water Commission advised the town that effective January 1, 2018, the water rate will increase from \$2.02 per cubic metre to \$2.10 per cubic metre. Council moved to accept the increase.

Eco Centre

It was noted that at the December meeting of the

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce, discussions included the future of the structure and who would do the maintenance inspections. Administration will ask the Public Works superintendent regarding the possibility of inspections.

Elk Point Baptist Church

Council agreed to send a letter to the Elk Point Baptist Church approving the removal of the cross connection between potable water and ground water source, removing any potential for cross contamination to the town's water system.

Lots to be listed

After a recent discussion with local realtors, council passed a motion to list one of the serviced industrial lots with each of the four local real estate firms as per the industrial land sale policy, for a term of 180 days.

Intermunicipal Collaboration

Council approved a motion to proceed with an application for an intermunicipal collaboration framework grant with the Town of Elk Point to be the lead partner of the group that would include the County and Town of St. Paul and the Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay.

Community Choir delivers gift of music

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff



SMALL GROUP, BIG TALENT - the Elk Point Community Choir's Small Group Choir, made up of (left to right) Ashley Heyden, Dixie Coleman, Udo Mueller, Linden Lundenback, Kelsey Taylor and Sheila Hatch, hones their skills at an extra practice each week and performs some extraordinary numbers.



TRADING PLACES - Pianist Sheila Hatch and director Udo Mueller traded roles for the choir's performance of 'Flags as Borders', one of two original numbers written and composed by Mueller in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation.



ALL IN THE FAMILY - Kelsey Taylor too over the podium from dad Udo Mueller, whose flying fingers accompanied the lively 'Holiday Road' while Sheila Hatch took over page turning duties from Alyssa Hatch.

After entertaining appreciative crowds across the area, Elk Point Community Choir came home to the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre on Friday for their annual Christmas Concert. Along with a variety of songs of the season, this year's concert also saluted Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, following words of welcome by Barb Burn and their traditional opening a cappella version of "Just Let Me Sing" with two original numbers written and composed by choir director Udo Mueller for St. Paul's recent Canada 150 program. Mueller provided the piano accompaniment of "Flags as Borders, with Sheila Hatch directing the choir in that number before she returned to the piano and Mueller to the podium for "Confederation," with solos by Mueller's daughter Kelsey Taylor. "I Love You Canada," written by Larry Mercer and arranged by Mueller, wound up the set of patriotic pride in music.

Moving into Christmas mode, the choir started off with "Season of Dreams," a song that painted a vivid word picture of December at its finest, and moved on to an updated version of a classic carol, "The Holly and the Ivy, with Robin Sieben adding a flute accompaniment to both that number and a new arrangement of a lullaby entitled "Suo Gan". The entire choir combined their talents in a song of Christmas hope lessening the despair of loss, "There's Still My Joy," with solos by Ashley Heyden.

This year, there is also a Small Group Choir, made up of Mueller, Linden Lundenback, Taylor, Hatch, Dixie Coleman and Heyden, who started off their set with an a cappella "Spotless Rose" before speeding up the tempo in the sprightly "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High", an updated version of "The First Noel" and the calypso beat of "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy."

The entire choir was back on stage and Mueller at the piano for the lively "Holiday Road," with Taylor conducting. A traditional song with a slower pace, "Candlelight Canon" and the soaring notes of "Starlight Shining on the Baby" followed before Mueller took the microphone to share holiday greetings, noting that, "When we get the chance to perform in public, it's like giving a gift of pleasant yet powerful sound."

Seeing a number of choir alumni in the audience, Mueller invited them to join the choir on stage for the final number, assuring them that they all knew the words to "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)", which brought tremendous applause from the audience, all well pleased with the gift of music they had enjoyed that evening.

Water rates

Following the Thursday, Dec. 14 Special Council meeting, where council passed the 2018 Operating and Capital budgets, new water rates and garbage bin rates, the Town of Elk Point issued the following news release:

"With a water increase from the Regional Water System, new electronic water meters being replaced and upgrades to the Town's water system, Mayor and Council have determined that a fee increase is necessary to provide a continuous improvement to a healthy and safe water system.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mayor and Council"

Cornerstone Co-op wishes you the very best of the Holiday Season and 2018!

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Christmas Eve - 8 am - 4 pm
Christmas Day - **Closed**
Boxing Day - **Closed**
New Year's Eve - 9 am - 5 pm
New Year's Day - **Closed**



Liquor Store Hours Elk Point

Christmas Eve - 10 am - 6 pm
Christmas Day - **Closed**
Boxing Day - 10 am - 9 pm
New Year's Eve - 10 am - 6 pm
New Year's Day - **Closed**



EDITORIAL

Six sleeps to go!

Once again, Christmas has crept up on us, and almost everyone still has a lengthy to-do list and only a few days left to get it all done before the big day.

Make sure, amid all the hustle and bustle, to be kind to yourself. All the presents in the world or the fanciest tree won't make up for parents worn to a frazzle and short tempered with everyone just before Christmas.

You've made your list and checked it twice, now take a highlighter and mark off the things that really don't have to be done to make a Christmas to remember. Let that be your gift to YOU, for a merrier Christmas for everyone.

Holidays can be 'ruff' on pets

CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

It's the most wonderful time of the year, but it can also be the most hectic, with gift-toting visitors coming in and out of our homes. Not to mention the decorations and the food; lots of food.

"The most common Christmas-related illnesses or emergencies we see are related to dietary indiscretion," says Dr. Kendra Goulet, Head of Emergency Services at Mississauga - Oakville Veterinary Emergency Hospital. "Around the holidays pets have more opportunity to get into, and eat, things they should not."

Chocolate, for example, is toxic to pets. Chocolate contains theobromine, which can be fatal if taken in high doses. While theobromine poisoning is most common in dogs, the toxic dose in cats is even smaller (though cats are less likely to eat chocolate since they're not able to taste sweetness).

Dr. Goulet advises turkey, ham and other holiday dinner foods should also be kept away from pets, as they can cause a painful abdomen with associated vomiting and diarrhea.

"Pet owners should try to avoid feeding their pets, or avoid allowing others to feed their pets, food items from the dinner table," Dr. Goulet suggests. "Ensure that any food items set out during entertaining, including the garbage, are out of reach of pets. Remember that dogs and cats have a keen sense of smell and can find the chocolate or other food items wrapped up under the tree."

The addition of a Christmas tree to your home can pose festive threats to your pet. When ingested, ornaments, ribbon, tinsel and new toys can cause obstruction of their stomach and intestinal tract. Place gifts, decorations and ornaments out of your pet's reach if possible. And if your cat or dog becomes inexplicably fixated on a certain ornament or decoration, you may consider simply removing it.

Even with the most diligent pet parents, accidents can happen. Your dog may get her paws on that package of chocolate your neighbour brought over, or your cat might eat through your child's homemade pipe cleaner ornament. That's why it's important to keep your veterinarian's number close by.

Speak with your veterinary healthcare team about which emergency clinic is closest to you for those times when an emergency occurs out of regular business hours, such as over the Christmas holiday.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



WAY BACK WHEN...

Riemer roasted, production doubled, snowman danced

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 18 IN...

1987

The board and administration of Elk Point Hospital was proud to announce the facility had achieved a three-year accreditation. Bylaw, building and development officer Ralph Riemer, who would retire from the town on Dec. 31, was in for a good-humoured roasting at the town's Christmas party.

1992

Pan Canadian Petroleum announced plans to expand their operations by nearly doubling production in 1993, when they held a pair of open houses in Heinsburg and King George. Charlene Baker brought home six Heritage Blanket awards, her daughter Shanna three awards, Tanya Kenyon four awards and Josie Veer one award from the Heritage Bluesky Circuit Provincial Equestrian Awards in Red Deer.

1997

With snow a scarce commodity at the time, crowds at the Elk Point Community Choir's Christmas concerts were delighted to have a visit from a roly-poly dancing snowman. Baseball rarely makes the sports news at this time of year, but the very excited Elk Point Minor Ball Association couldn't wait to break the news that they would host the 1998 Midget 'A' Baseball Provincials.

2002

A music-filled weekend saw a performance by the Elk Point Community Choir, a concert at the Baptist Church and the interfaith Cantata entertaining excellent crowds. Town council approved a wage hike from \$15 to \$20 per hour for local firefighters.

2007

Elk Point Community Choir delivered a gift of music to the community at their Christmas Concert, while the multi-church Cantata also took place during the weekend. Town council was reinventing the economic development advisory board as the previous bylaw did not make powers, duties and responsibilities clear.

2012

The first reading of Elk Point's new garbage bylaw was deferred to the first meeting of 2013, following a thorough run-through of the changes made from the current bylaw. With the proposed change to mechanical pickup, size and weight of garbage bags and containers is now redundant. Waste receptacles must now be the wheel-out type that is lifted and dumped by the garbage truck and are of the style approved by the town.



GLAD TIDINGS of great joy came to the angel choir at the 2012 Christian Community Church Christmas Concert.

Elk Point Review

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RETIRED FIRE CHIEF HONOURED - On behalf of the County of St Paul No 19 Council and Administration and Town of Elk Point Council and Administration, a farewell gift was presented by Town CAO Ken Gwozdz to former Fire Chief Ken Palamarek on Dec 13, in recognition of his over 40 years of service on the Elk Point Fire Department, of which was over 20 years as Fire Chief. The gift was a pair of \$800 gift cards to be used at RONA and Cornerstone Co-op in Elk Point.

Brooke Yaremchuk photo

County learns results of Dec. 1 crime forum

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

County of St. Paul council discussed a Dec. 1 crime forum meeting that took place at the Bonnyville Seniors Drop-In Centre, with Deputy Reeve Maxine Fodness attending on behalf of the county.

During the Dec. 12 council meeting, Fodness reported on her attendance at the forum. She offered a brief synopsis of the meeting, saying there was a large panel, which she was part of.

At the forum, it was noted that there are efforts taking place to gather information so that awareness can be created at different levels of government, regarding rural crime.

Fodness noted that drug issues in Bonnyville and Cold Lake were brought up, and there was also talk of citizens doing patrols as a method of crime prevention.

Fodness said it was difficult to identify good working solutions, and continued challenges with the justice system were also brought up. Not enough judges, prosecutors who have exponentially more cases than urban prosecutors, and a full prison system, were among the topics that were touched on, reported Fodness.

"It's like catch and release," said Fodness, when speaking of criminals who are caught, convicted, and then recommit the same offenses.

"The number one thing of this whole thing is that it is drug related," reported Fodness, to council.

She also noted that citizens need to be aware of the law, and how they can protect themselves in dangerous situations. Fodness said she spoke to a couple from the county who noted their property had been broken into five times, and in one instance video surveillance showed the suspects with a firearm.

Fodness noted that while candidates were campaigning this fall, rural crime was a "hot button issue," and she asked council if they felt a local forum would be needed, or some sort of lobbying to the provincial and federal governments.

Reeve Steve Upham noted that it's important for the county to be part of the group, if there is any lobbying taking place.

Fodness also pointed to recent local incidents that have occurred within the County of St. Paul, such as the mailboxes in Lafond being broken into.

"We can't afford to build more prisons, but we can't afford to live in fear," said Fodness.

Council agreed to direct administration to see if any surrounding municipalities are putting forward resolutions on the matter of rural crime.

A motion to ratify Fodness' attendance was carried, along with a motion to provide a letter of support to the MD of Bonnyville in the event that they choose to lobby the government.

County approves interim 2018 budget

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

The County of St. Paul has approved its interim budget. Operating and capital revenues are estimated to be \$44.1 million, along with almost \$2.9 million in debenture and funding from restricted surplus, for a total of about \$47 million in revenue.

Operations expenditures are estimated to be \$29.8 million; replacement reserves are pegged at \$136,000; debenture repayment is at \$807,429; and capital expenditures are set to cost close to \$16.3 million, for a total of \$47 million in expenses.

The Municipal Government Act states that council may adopt an interim operating budget for part of a calendar year.

Fee Schedule bylaw

Council approved its revised Fee Schedule Bylaw, with a few changes being made to the document.

Council discussed the need to reflect the true cost of work when it comes to mowing lots that aren't being maintained, and charging property owners accordingly. A minimum charge of \$125 was increased to \$150, with an hourly rate also increased from \$125/hour to \$150/hour.

It was noted that there are quite a few lots in some area that are being mowed by county staff, with Crestview being given as an example.

Council also spoke on the cost of custom grading, with that fee going from \$60/hour to \$100/hour.

Elk Point Recreation

Council approved to delegate the remaining funds that it had set aside for Elk Point Recreation Grants. A total of \$75,000 was budgeted for the recreation grants.

The Elk Point Theatre Group had received \$2,229 for microphones, and the A. G. Ross Arena received \$25,000 for roof repairs. After consulting with local

councillors, it was determined to fund \$47,770 to the C. G. Baker Riding Arena; \$3,000 to the Elk Point Regional Allied Arts; and \$16,413 each to the A. G. Ross Arena and the Elk Point Curling Rink.

Chambers of Commerce

Linda Sallstrom and Brent Sandmeyer of the St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce offered council its annual update on the initiatives it has underway, and some of its plans for the future.

Sallstrom spoke briefly about a CARES grant the organization received as a way to make St. Paul a "conference ready community." The project would organize all the different services needed so that when a group comes into the community to conduct a conference or similar event, it would be efficient and welcoming.

Looking at the labour market needs and conducting a labour market study are also on the chamber's radar. Partnerships with the Bonnyville Chamber of Commerce and Portage College have also been built upon lately.

The chamber continues to work on gathering information about upcoming cannabis legislation, as it will relate to employers, and has been taking part in the systemic racism meetings that have been taking place.

Sallstrom also noted that the chamber has been working with the St. Paul Municipal Seed Cleaning Plant on a certificate of origin project, because the plant is now sending some of its product to Egypt.

Council later asked for a bit more information on this topic, and it was noted that the product being sent to Egypt are lentils.

Following the delegation, council approved a motion for a \$10,000 contribution to the chamber, which is the same as last year. Council also approved \$5,000 for both the Elk Point and Mallaig chambers of commerce.

(Continued on Page 8)

Alternate option proposed for Waterton Subdivision

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

In November, council discussed at length the possibility of allowing residents at the Waterton subdivision at Laurier Lake to form a Bareland Condo Association, which would allow the community to be gated.

Over the past month, County of St. Paul planning and development officer Krystle Fedoretz has been working on gathering more information on the matter. At the Dec. 12 regular council meeting, she explained that she had a conversation with a representative from Urban Systems, who provided more information on the matter.

A Home Owner's Association may be a better option for residents, explained Fedoretz, to coun-

cil. If an association was formed, the county would sell the road in the subdivision to the association, and the association would then pay taxes on that road, and maintain it.

This would allow the residents to erect a locked gate, and the association would charge residents fees to pay for the taxes on the road. The county would also still have input on what kind of gate is installed.

It was noted that the Bareland Condo Association idea that had previously been brought up at the November council meeting would be a very complicated and expensive process, compared to the Home Owner's Association, and the new information has been relayed residents who are heading the initiative.

CAO Sheila Kitz recommended council be thoughtful on any deci-

sions moving forward, because it could result in more requests coming forward.

Fedoretz noted that Home Owner's Associations are a trend in the Calgary area right now, where some of the "high-end" neighbourhoods establish them to take care of common areas.

Earlier in the year, residents from Waterton initially came forward with a request to close off one end of the road that goes through the subdivision, which council denied. Residents are concerned about property crime and ATVs speeding through the subdivision, which has resulted in landowners wanting to control who enters the subdivision.

No motions were made following the update by Fedoretz.

The Elk Point Heritage Lodge Auxiliary Society

would like to give a huge Thank You to individuals and local businesses for their generous donations to our Residents Christmas Dinner on December 7th. Without your support we would not be able to offer the Residents of Heritage Lodge the extras that our fundraisers provide. We would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who helped in many ways to make our party a huge success.

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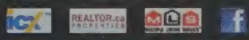
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Santas Anonymous a community success

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff



With the help of almost two dozen businesses and organizations, the purchasers of around 200 Good Buy to Hunger bags and a large crew of volunteers, Elk Point Community Lions president Diane Peifer says, "We made 45 families have a special Christmas this year. We also had Hunger bags delivered the day we handed out packages, so we were able to add more food to the hampers."

Elk Point Elementary School held a food drive that Peifer says was "amazing, it was not just food, there were toys, too, and the County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS gave us items for older kids as well as taking and returning calls. On Friday morning we had seven wrappers wrapping, and were done by 11:30, that couldn't have been more perfect, and the 4-H Beef Club came after school to put the food hampers together.

"The community made this a huge success."

Businesses and organizations that contributed included Order of the Royal Purple, Hahn Welding, Elk Point Insurance, JPD Enterprises, Therese McNamara, RONA, Servus Credit Union, Wanda Lynn's, FCSS Office/Terry Shankowski, Cornerstone Co-Op, Elk Point Truss Limited, E-Can Oilfield Services, Lakeland Reality, Hurl Family, Karbaszewski Family, St. Michael's Church, F. G. Miller High School, Elk Point Elementary, Signatures Collision & Repair, Northern Lights Library Services, Wolf Radio Station (Christina) Bonnyville and Canadian Natural Resources.

Volunteers on wrapping day included Elk Pointy 4-H Beef Club, Community Lions members, Dusty and Charly Frisby, Darianna Boorse, Linda Dorey, Zoe Ainsworth, Amy Bullock, Caroline Onasko and Theresa McNamara.



BIG GROUP EFFORT - everyone front Elk Point Elementary students (above) 4-H Beef Club members (left), Cornerstone Co-op, the Wolf and B & R Eckels (right), Wanda Cochrane of Wanda Lynn's Body Shoppe (below left), the wrapping crew (bottom left) and Servus Credit Union (below) and many others played a role in helping 45 families have a special Christmas this year.



Elk Point & District Ag. Society Annual General Meeting

7 pm, Monday, Jan. 8, 2018

Horizon Room, A.G. Ross Arena
Contact: Margaret 780-210-0518 or
margaretbayduza@gmail.com

May Your Days Be Shiny & Bright



Wishing you & yours sleighfuls of happiness at Christmastime. We hope this holiday season delivers everything you've been wishing for, right down to the last detail.

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The Mayor, Council and Staff
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LONGTIME COUNCILLOR HONOURED - Elk Point Mayor Lorne Young presented former Town Coun. Bernice Capjack with a plaque honouring her dedication to the town and its citizens over her 14 years on council. Capjack served as the town council representative on numerous committees, ranging from the Municipal Library Board to the Canada Day Committee, and will be much missed by those groups.

County council

(Continued from Page 5)

MS Society

Brenda Rosychuk with the MS Society of Canada, stopped by council chambers on Tuesday to offer a review of the work and fundraising being done in the Lakeland, along with requesting funds for the organizations walk on May 12, 2018.

The walk has been taking place for 10 years now, with 470 people registered in the 2017 walk. The County of St. Paul has been a regular sponsor of the walk.

Rosychuk noted that the group had revamped its sponsorship levels a little bit. In the past, sponsors who gave \$500 had their logo on the event t-shirts, but this year that number would move up to \$1,000.

In the past, County of St. Paul has donated \$500.

"I think it's a great cause," said Reeve Steve Upham, after the delegation.

Coun. Darrell Younghans asked how this event compared to other events the county supports, in terms of funding. It was noted that each event is unique, and there isn't a set number that council sponsors.

Council approved a motion to support the 2018 MS Walk with a donation of \$1,000.

Racism Walk

Council approved a motion to split the cost of supplying a meal following an upcoming walk in January that is being organized as part of the systemic racism meetings that have been taking place in St. Paul and Saddle Lake.

The walk is set to happen on Jan. 10 during the day. Another round table discussion will happen that same day, in the evening, in St. Paul.

"It would be a good, neighbourly gesture," said Kitz, when bringing forward the item during her CAO report. Council agreed.

Destination Bethlehem

PASTOR JIM MACLELLAN

Elk Point Baptist Church

In the Christmas story we read these familiar words: "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:4-7, ESV).

We might fail to see the global significance to these words. We might miss the fact that there were multitudes upon multitudes of minuscule particulars that enabled this birth to take place, when and where it did. Hundreds of years prior, the Bible prophesied that the Christ-child be born in Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. That's about 120 kilometers. That's two days walking. It was critical that they get to the place where the Messiah was to be born. Consider the military and political decisions that brought about a national ruler who decided to tax his world, at this time. Think of the geopolitical maneuverings that put Caesar Augustus in power, just so this young couple would be motivated to go to Bethlehem, on time! "The time came for her to give birth."

Rome occupied Israel. The reason for the census was for accurate taxation. The Jews hated taxes and hated giving taxes to the Romans. The Jews hated the Romans. Rome was the enemy. Rome had violated their freedom.

Solomon, that honoured and wise King of Israel wrote, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will" (Proverbs 21:1, ESV). The Biblical record is clear: God is sovereign. He rules over all. Even kings and kingdoms are in the hand of Almighty God. Yes, a nation was occupied by a foreign army. Its rulers demanded heavy burdens of taxation. But within that context, God brought salvation. To echo the ancient words of Joseph, the prince of Egypt, he said, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" (Genesis 50:20, ESV).

Someone has rightly affirmed that, "All the mammoth political forces and all the giant industrial complexes, without their even knowing it, are being guided by God, not for their own sake but for the sake of God's people." The Apostle Paul made that plain when he penned these words: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, ESV).

On behalf of the leaders and congregation of Elk Point Baptist Church, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and wonderful New Year. May you bask in the wonder of knowing a God who is the Lord of heaven and earth.

Christmas Church Services

Christian Community Church -

Christmas Eve service at 10 a.m.

Elk Point Baptist Church - Christmas Eve services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church -

Christmas Eve mass 9 p.m.,

no Dec. 25 mass in Elk Point. Bilingual

Christmas Day mass in St. Paul 10:30 a.m.;

Dec. 31: 9 a.m. mass and

January 1: 10:30 a.m. mass in Elk Point.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Your Local Sports Hound
Doug Bassett
All the best in 2018!

TML?

Delivering Our Best at Christmastime

To all of our valued readers and friends, go our sincere best wishes for a merry and bright holiday season filled with peace, joy and contentment. We are so proud to be a part of this fine community, and we consider it an honor to be the local and trusted news source you turn to throughout the year.

Thank you for your readership and support.
Happy Holidays!



Elk Point REVIEW

WARMEST WISHES TO OUR READERS!

Vicki & Mel

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Santa comes early to Elk Point Minor Hockey

On the 10th day of Christmas!! Santa came early this year for the Elk Point Minor Hockey Association. Huge news on Friday, coming down from Hockey Alberta in Red Deer. We've been selected to host the Bantam D Provincials on March 15 to 18th. Hats off to last year's provincial committee for doing such a great job that we have been considered so soon to do another. The work shall begin early in the new year, setting up sub committees and getting everything spruced up. We have a very good start from last year on the building and don't need a lot to do it, plus we know what to expect as far as the programs, concession, time box, banquet, etc.



**doug
BASSETT**
Review Sports

Bantam Avalanche

And the good news is, our Bantam Avalanche team is very competitive this year and could be going to provincials regardless if they hosted or not. This past weekend the boys played in the Marwayne tournament. Winning their first game Friday night 4 to 0 over Cold Lake, on Saturday morning they defeated Sherwood Park 10 to 5. But then some of the injuries and a short bench took its toll and the boys suffered their very first loss of the season against Strathcona 7 to 1. With one of their top D-men Jace 'the Stafford Streak' out with a broken wrist, they started the weekend with nine skaters but started to lose a few more. 'Lightning Liam' Ludlage, 'Danny Boy' Cardinal and 'King Cole' Bendixen were still playing but starting to get all banged up. In the final game against Lloydminster with one player serving a suspension, and only seven skaters in the line up, the boys lost this as well 7 to 4. Not a huge deal, they were only really exhibition games anyway and I know these guys will be ready when the time comes. The Christmas break is coming and will give these guys a break to heal up. So far in the tier one league play they are still undefeated. Perhaps they may be able to bring up a few peewee aged players for the provincial tournament, but as you know, there's no body contact in peewee hockey anymore, so who knows if this would be a very good idea or if their parents and coaches would even consider it.

Midget Avalanche

The Midget Avalanche had one heck of a good weekend, winning both Friday night by one goal at home and again Saturday night by one goal on the road. Friday night at home was the best midget game I have seen since last year's provincial finals. The Avalanche hosted the top team in the tier one league, the Cold Lake Freeze. Our boys came out a little rusty after not playing at all last weekend and only two

games in the last month, but by the midway point of the first period after some heavy duty body checks, the boys started to respond. Tied 3-all after the first period on goals by Hayden 'Hot Wheels' Ludlage, Chase 'Rink Rat' Dorey and the 'Big O' Brody Odgaard, talented Nick 'Sparky' Anderson assisting on all three of them, the 'Big O' helping out on the first two. No scoring in the second period but some outstanding goaltending in both ends, our guys putting pressure on the big Cold Lake tender, but he was coming up huge for them. Not as many shots on Spencer 'Fortress' Hardcastle, but he was making quality saves at the right time. Tied 4-all half

way through the third period on a goal all alone by team captain 'Awesome Alex' Hunter, who would also score the winner at the 11:32 mark when the high flying D-man 'Hot Wheels' would feed him a two line pass, sending him in all alone, sniper 'Awesome Alex' finding the top shelf. Now all the boys had to do was shut them down for the next 10 minutes, and they did so with the help of the rugged defensemen, 'Warrior Warren' Ference, Cyle 'Grinder' Graus and Hank 'the Tank' Rogal and some terrific back checking by forwards Wolke 'Wolfman' Cueva and Chad 'Pick Pocket' Poitras.

On Saturday the boys loaded up their bags and headed north to Lac La Biche to take on another one of the top teams in the league, the Clippers. Different team but the same scenario. Four-all at the end of the second, goals by Rink Rat, 'Wolfman' the 'Big O' and 'Pick Pocket'. Two assists for 'Sparky', two for the 'Rink Rat', 'Warrior Warren' and Abe Neufeld with one each. In the third period things started to opened up again, two goals by the 'Big O', making it 6-all, both of them assisted by 'Sparky'. Time running down, seven minutes left when the team captain 'Awesome Alex' would do it once again, scoring the winner all on his own. Now to shut them down. Same script as the night before only it was Colton 'Colt 45' Van Maarion between the pipes shutting the door on the Clippers. No doubt in my mind that the Tier1 is where we belong, it makes us work for the wins and in the long run, makes us a stronger team.

Novice news

Two teams from the same town and two different results for the Novice Avalanche, who played Bonnyville 2 on Saturday at home, winning 6 to 4. 'Without a Trace' Morgan with two goals and two assists, Remington 'Steel' Reynolds finding the mesh with two, Brenden 'Buzz Saw' Kadutski and

'Notorious Nolan' Ballas with one each. On Sunday, the novice team traveled up to Bonnyville short five players due to other commitments and still did not do too badly against the Bonnyville 4 team, who has been cleaning up on everyone in the league this year. The final score 7 to 4 in favor of Bonnyville. Two goals for 'Wyatt Earp' Fontaine, Miles 'the Millionaire' Koren with one, Kale 'the Hawk' Ockerman with a goal and two helpers.

Early start for Micro Novice

No sleeping in on Saturday morning for this bunch, but at least this is more fun than getting up for school. The Micro Novice hitting the ice at 9 bells on Saturday morning against St. Paul and winning this one 10 to 5. Hat tricks for Ryder 'Rhino' Malo and 'Jesse James' Penner, two goals each for Jaxon 'Magic' Marcoux and 'Billy Bob' Ballas.

Atom Avalanche

Home sweet home. The Atom Avalanche played two home games this weekend and still had some great confidence going after their big tournament win last weekend. Facing a strong team from Lloydminster on Saturday, they never weakened or threw in the towel when the going got tough, losing this one 8 to 4. Branden 'Pinball' Pinette, Timmy 'the Freight Train' Cardinal, 'Cyclone Cole' Pierce and Kaysen 'Dynamite' deMossiac all scoring, Cyclone Cole and Dynamite setting up the first two. Sunday turned into a real barnburner against Boyle that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Tied two-all on goals by Anna 'the Banana' Henderson, which by the way was her first of the year, and 'Stellar Ella' Ballas. No scoring after that the clock would tick down in the third period until a dramatic finish with .35 seconds on the clock, 'Cyclone Cole' Pierce with a gallant effort would bury the winner sending the crowd into a frenzy. Hard working Evett 'Snoopy' Smereka and 'Dynamite' with two assists each, 'Pinball' and 'Cyclone Cole' with one each.

Peewee Tier 4

The Peewee 4 team is doing really well after getting re-tiered. Saturday they lost a close one to Wainwright 2 to 0, 'Wild Wyatt' Pavoll named the Inspirational Player of the game. On Sunday they won 4 to 3 up in Plaamndon. 'Top Gunner' Crawford hitting the target with two, including the winner. Kaleb 'Formula One' Flamand and 'Wild Wyatt' Pavoll adding one each. Brady 'Bionic Man' Hymanyk, 'Bazooka Joey' 'Cardinal' and Seth 'Motor Man' Morton with the assists. Kaleb and Seth named the Inspiration Players of the game.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Announcements

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FEB. 6, 1954 - DEC. 19, 2012



Everytime we remember
his laughter or recall his
readiness to help others,

Everytime we find
ourselves doing
something he taught us,
or repeating something
he used to say,

Everytime we think of
him, we bring him closer
in our hearts.

Missed by Agnes;
Robyn, Myrna & Family;
Shaun, Sheryl & Family;
Gladys, Jack & Family

Hockey

(Continued from Page 10)

Peewee Tier 1

The Peewee 1 team lost in Lloydminster on Saturday and to Meadow Lake on Sunday at home. I watched some of the game on Sunday and was very impressed with the aggressive fore-checking of our guys. They sure have improved a lot this year and would have no problem winning in Tier 2 but are a little over their heads in Tier 1. But I still maintain that come provincial time this team will shine!

And a big happy birthday going out today to a hockey mom Lisa Warawa, who has a aggressive player on that same Peewee Tier 1 team, Rylee 'the Rocket'. All three of her girls, the 'Rocket', 'Hurricane Kayl' and

'Whirlwind Avery' are pretty girls. But don't let their looks deceive you, they know how to skate and play right along with the boys.

Speaking of female hockey talent, former Storm goalie Heaven 'the Brickhouse' Colbourne, now playing in Bonnyville for the midget female Lakeland Jaguars, played fantastic on Saturday, coming up with some huge saves in a 8 to 2 win over Wainwright.

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week, "Most people who didn't know I play hockey think I was thrown through a plate glass window or something." - Theoren Fleury.

And finally, remember to be good... because Santa is watching. P.S. Hey big guy... can you bring the Leafs the cup... and get the Oilers into the playoffs.... and I'm not joking this year!

Big win puts Elks in third

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Elks will go into their Christmas break in third place in the SaskAlta Hockey League, after a big 6 - 1 win over Two Hills Longhorns on Friday night in Two Hills. Two Hills and Dewberry are tied for fourth in the league, one point behind Elk Point, and Dewberry has a game this coming weekend, while both Two Hills and the Elks take a break until the first weekend in 2018.

Scott Ward scored the opening goal of Friday's game, assisted by Sean Joly, early in the first period, with Nicolas Trufal making it 2 - 0 in the last minute before the break, off assists by Jordyn Wozniak and Jason Kalynchuk.

Trufal added another goal less than four minutes into the second frame, assisted by Kam Ballas and Christian Nypower, before the Longhorns made it onto the scoreboard. Ward scored his second of the night late in the second, assisted by Matthew Boulianne, for a 4 - 1 lead.

Boulianne added the Elks' fifth goal of the night, assisted by Trufal and Ward, while Ballas fired the parting shot with just 2:56 left on the third period clock, assisted by Ward and Henry Cardinal to make the final score 6 - 1 in the Elks' favour.

Library switching up hours after Christmas break

DAPHNE SCHNURER
Elk Point Municipal Library

Christmas time's a coming, and we have the best stocking stuffer ever - a free library card@ Whether you're an adult, a kid or a senior, stop in and get yours today. You will be amazed at what you can do! Download free videos, music, ebooks and more, all with your library card. Bring your ID and come on in!

We're taking a Christmas break, from December. 23 to January 2, inclusive. We will reopen on January 3, 2018.

We will have new hours of operation in the new year, starting on January 3. Due to limited numbers of patrons on Saturdays, we are hoping to accommodate more families and working patrons by staying open an extra hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, when we will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Wednesday remaining at noon to 7 p.m., closed Saturdays.

From the Library Board and staff, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.!



TIS THE SEASON - Servus Credit Union staffers Marcy Maltais, Jessica Jurak, Deena Smith, Jennifer Dallaire and Lorrie O'Reilly, was all dressed up in their best Ugly Christmas Sweaters on Friday, with patrons invited to vote for their favourites.

Grand opening at Frog Lake

SUBMITTED COPY

A stunning renovation of the Frog Lake store located on Hwy 897, between Cold Lake and Lloydminster has wrapped up, with a ribbon cutting ceremony taking place, Dec. 8.

Prior to the renovations, leadership in Frog Lake decided that it wanted to take back the store and have Frog Lake nation members operate the facility, explained Nirmal Gill, of Metrican Builders. For the past two decades, the store had been run by someone who wasn't from Frog Lake.

The band has hired a store manager and 10 employees to operate the store. This has created new jobs and a source of revenue for the community, says Gill. There is a full menu inside where highway travelers can come enjoy a meal and also fuel up.

The construction project involved new gas pumps, canopy, and upgrading the petroleum aspect to meet industry standards. The exterior of the building was redone and also the interior of the building was a complete renovation.

The future plan is to continue to expand, and bring more businesses into the building.

C-STORE



FRESH START - The store and gas bar along Highway 897 in Frog Lake First Nations is newly renovated and under new management, and celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting on Dec. 8.

**merry
christmas**
and a happy new year

Guardian

Our sincere thanks for your valued business. We appreciate having you as our customer and look forward to serving you again. We wish you and your loved ones a very

**Merry
Christmas**

The Management and Staff at
Elk Point Guardian Drugs

Closed December 24, 25, 26

atoma

MLA David Hanson
would like to wish you a

**Merry
Christmas**

and invites you to
join us for our

Open House

A chance to meet your
local MLA, and discuss
Alberta program and/or
issues that affect you.

December 21st, 2017

1PM - 4PM

4331-50th Ave St. Paul, AB